

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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SUBJECT: TUNGSTEN STATISTICS AND OUTLOOK: JAPAN 1975

REF: A) TOKYO 13565 (OCT. 18, 1974)

B) STATE 224074

SUMMARY: IN CY 1975 JAPAN'S METALLIC TUNGSTEN PRODUCTION EXPECTED TO BE 800 METRIC TONS (MT) OR LESS WITH IMPORTS OF 40 - 50 MT AND CONSUMPTION OF 1,100 - 1,300 MT. FERRO-TUNGSTEN PRODUCTION OF 600 MT ANTICIPATED. END SUMMARY.

1. JAPAN'S TUNGSTEN INDUSTRY HAS FARED CONSIDERABLY WORSE THAN OUTLOOK REPORTED REF. A. JANUARY - APRIL 1975 DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF METALLIC TUNGSTEN AVERAGED LESS THAN 60 MT/MO. IN CONTRAST TO 120 - 130 MT/MO. FORECAST FOR THAT PERIOD. INDUSTRY SOURCES NOW DOUBT THAT CY 1975 PRODUCTION WILL REACH HALF OF CY 1974'S 1,655 MT. IN 1975 METALLIC TUNGSTEN IMPORTS OF 40 - 50 MT ARE ANTICIPATED COMPARED TO 1974 IMPORTS OF 285 MT. THE 1975 DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION FORECAST IS 1,100 - 1,300 MT (DOWN FROM 2,000 MT IN 1974) DEPENDING UPON RATE OF GENERAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY OVER REMAINDER OF THE YEAR. DEMAND FOR TUNGSTEN FROM ELECTRIC LIGHT INDUSTRY IS PICKING UP, BUT DEMAND FOR CEMENTED CARBIDE TOOLS, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR OVER HALF

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JAPAN'S METALLIC TUNGSTEN CONSUMPTION, IS CONTINUING

TO DECREASE. INVENTORIES OF METALLIC TUNGSTEN ROSE FROM 299 MT IN JANUARY 1974 TO 544 MT IN DECEMBER BUT HAD DECLINED TO 495 MT BY END OF MARCH 1975. JAPAN'S SOLE FERRO-TUNGSTEN MANUFACTURER PLANS 1975 PRODUCTION OF ABOUT 600 MT, DOWN FROM 776 MT IN 1974.

2. IN APRIL 1975 MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI) ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING JFY 1975 (ENDS MARCH 31, 1976) OUTLOOK FOR TUNGSTEN ORE CONCENTRATES (IN TERMS OF METAL CONTENT). ACTUAL JFY 1974 FIGURES IN PARENTHESES.

DOMESTIC PRODUCTION 777 MT (1QTL
IMPORTS 2,191 MT (2,605)
CONSUMPTION 3,001 MT (2,698)
(ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF ORE CONSUMPTION IS FOR PRODUCTION OF METALLIC TUNGSTEN.) MITI NOW BELIEVES THESE ESTIMATES TOO HIGH AND PLANS TO REVISE THEM. NO JAPANESE EXPORTS OF METALLIC TUNGSTEN, FERRO-TUNGSTEN, OR ORE CONCENTRATES ANTICIPATED. SOME 1976 CONSUMPTION ESTIMATES EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE LATE JULY. EMBASSY WILL REPORT ASAP.

3. DOMESTIC PRODUCTION, IMPORTS AND CONSUMPTION OF METALLIC TUNGSTEN:

	(UNIT: KILOGRAMS)	
	1974	JAN.-APRIL 1975
PRODUCTION	1,655,473	236,471
IMPORTS	285,483	10,427
U.S.A.	136,858	5,427
FRANCE	48,120	5,000
W. GERMANY	99,000	0
U.K.	1,440	0
CANADA	65	0
	JAN.-MARCH 1975	
CONSUMPTION	2,030,102	275,292
CEMENTED CARBIDE		
TOOLS	1,190,383	155,538

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WIRE, SHEETS BARS	327,658	66,698
ELECTRIC CONTACTS	117,565	9,770
HEAT-RESISTANTS ALLOYS	100,247	23,028
HIGH SPEED STEEL	36,983	0
OTHER ALLOYS STEEL	2,816	510
OTHER ALLOY TOOL STEEL	24,476	2,830
OTHER	239,974	16,918

4. DOMESTIC PRODUCTION, IMPORTS, AND CONSUMPTION OF
TUNGSTEN ORE CONCENTRATES:

	(UNIT: MT)	
	1974	JAN.-APRIL 1975
PRODUCTION (METAL CONTENT)	1,021(*)	344(*)
IMPORTS (ORE QUANTITY)	3,818	607
S. KOREA	1,161	243
AUSTRALIA	274	81
PERU	484	68
PORTUGAL	499	65
THAILAND	494	50
CHINA	288	50
ZAIRE	80	30
CANADA	386	20
BOLIVIA	76	0
OTHER	76	0

(*) NOTE: IN 1975 MITI CHANGED BASIS OF REPORTING
DOMESTIC ORE PRODUCTION FROM QUANTITY TO METAL CONTENT. 1974
FIGURE ADJUSTED TO THIS BASIS. STARRED FIGURES ABOVE CANNOT
BE COMPARED TO CORRESPONDING 1973 AND JAN.-JUNE 1974 FIGURES
REPORTED REF. A, PARA. 2.

	1974	JAN.-MARCH 1975
CONSUMPTION (ORE QUANTITY)	5,334	925
METALLIC TUNGSTEN	2,978	541
CALCIUM TUNGSTEN CLINKER	1,142	210
FERRO-TUNGSTEN	1,201	172
INORGANIC CHEMICALS	6	2
OTHER	8	0

SOURCES: MITI FOR PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION; MIN. OF FINANCE FOR
IMPORTS

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